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My February sale catalogue will contain 2 fine heliotype plates of rare coins and medals. Thick paper copies with plates for sale now at 40c. each. After the sale priced 60 cents each. Postage stamps taken in payment.

COUNTERFEITS.

first from rarity, in the same manner as diamonds and all precious stones; it these minerals should become plentiful their value would at once diminish. This is also true in some measure of coins, but there is another sort of value attached to them; they are an historical record, and connect us in the most intimate manner with the living and breathing past; they tell of the trials, struggles, sufferings and triumphs of our forefathers, and illustrate the phases of our history in the guage, that appeals to all hearts, virtuous Who shall decide what coins are rare, or plen-

and vicious; its power for good and evil is without limit; all acknowledge its sway, and implicitly rely upon its integrity. It is therefore the first and most sacred of all governments to maintain and guarantee the purity and value of its money, and to regard all counterfeiting and debasement of the same, as one of the highest crimes that can be committed against the people. This applies principally to the current coin, but all copies come within its influence more or less; what is an exact copy of even an unimportant medal? is it not something purporting to be what it is not, and therefore a fraud; no matter how near the copy may be to the original, it is not what it professes to be; this fact must be recognized or there is an end at once to all values. We cannot accept the counterfeit as the true, and we reject it at once simply on these grounds. It has been argued that an imitation brings the productions of art within the reach of all; but is this so, does this cheapen a work of art? No, it enhances its value, and the original is still further removed, the copy alone is attainable by those who are satisfied with the shadow without the substance. Some may say, if the two things appear the same, there is no appreciable difference, this can easily be illustrated. Sup-Old coins appear to derive their value, pose a person in possession of a letter from a parent, or child, or dear friend, dead long ago, if that letter was copied by an expert and the copy substituted, should the copy be considered to be identical with the original? This is perhaps the principal cause of the value attached to old coins; they are a link that unites us with those associated with their early history, and to substitute copies is to outrage one of the attributes of nature, that distinguish man from the brute creation. The copying of coins on the plea of their rarity present. But the history of a coinage, by seems reasonable on the surface, but is in the formation of society, is a universal lan-reality only the thin end of the wedge.

National Museums, where they rightfully be-tinet is because 4 is an unlucky unmber. collectors refused to purchase any other than suggestion as a friendly hint. genuine coins, the practice of openly making and uttering counterfeit U.S. money, would at all events be somewhat abridged; but I am afraid we must not expect that, when the Mint authorities have within a few years gone into the business themselves, and kept a shop for the sale of coins made to order, at exorbitant charges.

Yours Coinologically, G. W. GILL.

Carpenter and Hammer Plane Man.

RUMISMATIC GOSSIP.

Numisma, on account of press of husiness, is a little late in appearing this month.— Dr. W E. Woodward has met with two sad misfortunes; 1st he was operated upon by a confidence man who got \$3 - worth of tooth brushes and 13 trade dollars in trade for a worthless cheque of \$16.25; and 2d, "the most unkindest cut of all" he was drawn on jury duty and kept in durance for several weeks. -- Scott has bounced his ex confidential clerk, Dave Proskey, or as the Boston Journal expresses it, "sir. David Proskey has & Co."—A valued and well informed San half cents.

All the coins that are really scarce, particulars in our next. ——Smith says that or unique, will eventually find their way into the reason he has no 1804 dollars in his cablong, and if counterfeited before or after they Patent portable pocket spittoons cost only reach these collections, the copies are,—well 50c. a piece, and it costs \$5. to have the aucjust copies. If all dealers in current Nation-tion rooms in Broadway scrubbed after each al coins were subjected to the penalties pre- coin sale. Not being interested in the sale scribed by law against counterfeiting, and all of the patent article we only throw out the

NUMISMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

a a a In regard to your Monograph of U. S. Cents and Half Cents, etc., I have a very fine copy now in the hands of a very. good workman to receive his handsomest work in shape of a suit of blue morrocco. I value it very highly, and as I only treat my best works to a handsome coat, you can see that I hold it as a fit companion for any I have, Crosby, Marvin, Maris, etc. 🜼 🐡

New York, Oct. 17, 1881.

- In a former catalogue Mr. Woodward mentions that he knows no difference between the original and restrike half cents. You, wishing to impart wisdow to all ye mortals who seek it, kindly call his attention to the fact that there is really such a thing, and he like a wise man accepts the information and imparts it again in his Burton catalogue as though he knew it since childhood. Therefore let all give thanks to you and Numisma!
- Thanks for good opinion. We lay severed his connection with the firm of Scott no claim to the discovery of differences in These have always Francisco correspondent referring to the sug- known and recognized among well posted gestion thrown out in last "Numisma," con- coin dealers and collectors. The greater part cerning modern fabrications of ancient Chi of the half-cents were restruck at the Mint at a nese coins says: "Your surmises have in time when the governing officers desired to part already been anticipated here in San increase the collection of Washington med-Francisco."—The editor of Numisma, als at the Mint by exchange, and were coined though still believing himself a sane man, is with that object in view, not as is generally about publishing a medal. Price and further supposed for speculative purposes.

NUMISMA.

ED. FROSSARD, IRVINGTON, N. Y.

Editor and Proprietor.

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ADVERTISEMENTS, LIMITED TO 3 LINES, 25c, each insertion. With the paper, \$1.50 per annum. Over 3 lines, 10 cents oxtra. ner line and insertion

Special advertisements in this column, \$1 per insertion.

ON A COIN OF TITUS.

Writton for Numisma.

"Judae Capta" So the legend reads. A palm tree with a figure at its base, A captive, wearing still the comely grace Of Freedom's glory, draped in mourning weeds. The head of Titus, strong, as though the needs Of klugly sway belonged to it, the face Bearing of thought and care the deepening trace. And signs of one well versed in noble deeds. And eighteen hundred years have come and gone. Since, where Rome towered among her many hills, Your undlmmed lustre lay within the hand Of some swart soldler, who had late rushed on To storm the temple, and had felt the thrills. That come to those who win a foeman's land, THOMAS S. COLLIER.

THE CHOUTEAU INDIA V MEDAL.

the border, PIERRE CHOUTEAU & Co. UPPER that some 50 or more years ago, a prudent Missouri ourfir. Rev. Pipe and tomahawk and thrifty country dame, struck by the brillcrossed, and two right hands joined. Peace | jancy of some new mint issue, by its finely AND FRIENDSHIP 1843. Border ornament- modeled head and artistic design, carefully ed, edge plain. Tin, size 58. A copper loop wrapped the dime or quarter in a piece of is soldered on edge.

an Indian Lodge, at Peoria Bottom, on the most instinctive action would give pleasure and to us. In condition the medal is very good, now almost forgotten aunt Becky or grant-

per loop. We are indebted to Major C P. Nichols of Springfield, Mass., from whom we secured the medal, for the facts given of its history. Indian medals are a little out of our line and if any correspondent cares for it, this can be purchased from us at a reasonable price.

Beside the usual number and varieties of coins obtained from auction sales, or by private purchase, every sensible collector has in his cabinet some particular pieces to which he attaches greater value, be it from their history. or the way they fell into his hands. It may be the coin that, like Michley's well known '99 cent, first led him to throw a more than careless glance at the silver and copper passing through his hands, or a queer token of unknown origin, the gift of a now departed friend,—it may be an unusually lucky hit at a sale, or a coin distinguished for its beauty and rarity found in a garret, in an old stocking, or behind the cupboard now remodeled to give room to a more modern and aesthetic Cloaked bust of Chouteau to right. Near article of furniture. We can well imagine, paper, judiciously placed the paper in an old This interesting and heretofore unpublish- stocking, the old stocking in the family chest ed medal, was obtained from an Indian, in up in the garret, little dreaming that her al-Missouri River, a point about 15 miles north profit to descendants yet unborn, and then forof Fort Pierre, Dakota Ter. Chouteau, as his got all about it. Fifty years afterwards the coin name indicates, was a Frenchman, an as- is brought to light, examined, submitted to the sociate of John Jacob Astor in the fur trade, local coin man, who quickly discovers its valand carried on an extensive trade with the ue and generally succeeds in carrying away Indians and among the pioneers of the Upper the prize to his hoard, thus gathering the har-Missouri. The date of his death is unknown vest of the seed sown fifty years before by the though showing some marks of wear, and it mother Ruth-Ann. We occasionally re-eive has undoubtedly been worn by an Indian, from correspondents advice of such finds, hung to a chain or string fastened to the cop- and when opportunity presents are pleased to

known their good luck to our little circle of considered a very high price. It was in our readers. A case in point seems to be that of hands for over three mouths before we acciour esteemed friend Mr. Nicholas Hatheway, dentally discovered it to be a combination or Lawyer Hatheway, as thep call him there, heretofore unknown. This cent was placed ing a coin in his cabinet as follows:

"The 1807 dime I showed you in New York was taken about a year since from a small calico bag belonging to Charles Sewell Esq., now about 75 years of age, and residing in this city. The bag containing the dime had about a dozen pennies in it and was given him by a maiden sister, now dead, three years since. She died at the age of about 70, and the bag with contents had been the gift of her mother. The dime has been seen by Mr. Parmelee, and by Mr. Ahlborn of Boston, who had seen the Parmelee dime of same date, and both said that it was doubtful which is the better of the two. I have been offered a large price for it, as you know, but it is not for sale I think it is the equal of any 1807 dime in the country, and I prize it highly, both on account of its beauty and of its local history."

The writer has himself, in the course of his experience as a coin dealer and collector, made several lucky discoveries, one of the best of which was that of a 1794 starred cent. About 18 months ago, when Dr. Maris discovered, and Chapman Bros. first offered a "starred" '94 cent, we felt a great desire to see and examine a perfect specimen of this variety. But, alas! none could be obtained, not even borrowed. In sheer desperation we examined our little stock with a faint hope that one might be found there. To our surprise the very first '94 showed the cir cle or stars on reverse, and now, the recognized finest '94 starred cent known, holds the place of honor in our set of that date. An other lucky discovery was that of a 1793 Wreath cent, purchased by us from a dealer, and rare American coins will entirely cease.

avail ourself of their permission to make solely on account of its beauty, at what we of Fall River, Mass., who writes us concern- in our Dec 9, 1881 sale, where it was bought by H. G. Sampson for an unknown buyer at Several other lucky discoveries or \$136 rather purchases have recently been made by us; we will only cite the "Gloriam Regni" 1670 Fourth crown, from a French cabinet, now in the possession of one of our foremost collectors-the Oswego medal, in the cabinet of Prof. Anthon, a bright red chain cent of 1793, and several others of minor importance. A lucky ride was that of a Maine correspondent. Hearing of an old coin bag back in the country he saddled his horse, rode 15 miles through rain and storm, reached the house of a poor widow, who, driven by want was endeavoring to dispose of some personal property, and in fact had very little left beside the old coppers laid aside years before by her husdand. He was rejoiced to find a complete set of cents, including fine specimens of '99 and 1804, but the widow was much more so, for the liberal price he paid enabled her to buy a sewing machine, whereby to earn enough to feed the little ones and keep the wolf from the door. Not long ago a well known coin dealer, by dint of hard scraping, gathered some \$4000, with which he bought, at a nominal premium, and in the rural districts of Pennsylvania, a large sum of silver coins, the accumulated savings for many years, of a religious society. There were, we are told, 1 1794 dollar, a large number of dollars up to 1803, about 75 1794 halves, 300 '95, etc., etc. Many similar instances could be cited, and in spite of the scarcity of American coins of earlier dates, and the wide notoriety constantly given by newspapers and coin dealers concerning their value, the day has not yet come, nor will probably for a long time, when discoveries of early

COIN SALES CATALOGUES.

heavy fall in the prices of the eatalogues of that a few years ago would probably have coin sales held in the United States during brought \$150, or even more, for \$10 and less. the past 20 years, and now occasionally offer. Every collector who collects for information. ed with coin collections. At one time special self-culture, and with higher aims than a mere editions, printed on heavy paper with broad accumulation of dates, should have a number margins, and printed prices, were regularly is of priced catalogues, selected with care, and sued by the pioneers of the coin trade, Co-bearing especially upon the particular branch gan, Strobridge, and others, and readily sold of numismatics to the study of which he devotes at from \$4 to \$10 per copy. Subsequently, his moments of leisure. Among coin dealwith an increase in the number of sales, and ers the fashion now prevails of numbering the a consequent decrease in their importance, sales, a feature possessing decided advantathe prices fell to \$1 or \$2, but were for a long ges both to the compiler and the buyer. That time well sustained at these rates. Now, truly learned antiquary Dr. Woodward, of with sales occurring on the average once a Roxbury, Mass., has up to this time actually week, in some city or other of the United held forty five sales of coins, Indian relies, States, prices have fallen very low, and cata- and books, among the former several of the logues of once renowned cabinets bring little most important ones held in the United more than waste paper. This is accounted States, and at his present rate of progression for by the fact that one catalogue is frequent will soon reach his 50th, which important ocly only the repetition of sections of former casion, we suggest should be appropriately catalogues, the coins being the same ones celebrated by a re-union of all the coin buythat have frequently before passed through ers who bought coins, free of commission, the auction room, and eventually coin sales through him, at his sales, under the hospitable catalogues will be classed with those of roof of the Roxbury apothecary. His friend, books, bric-a-brac, etc., and unless they de- our esteemed and honored contemporary, scribe the contents of full cabinets, and are Mr. Walter Scott, of London, proprietor and accurate as well as copious, will possess no at present the editor of the "Coin Collector's value whatever. Some collectors gather full Journal," held his 37th sale in December last. series of eatalogues, and the uninitiated is It is true that some malicious persons have frequently astonished to see, at a coin sale, a persistently spread the rumor that Scott's valuable compendium of numismatic know- catalogues up to No. 15 are a myth, and that ledge knocked down for 02 c, while a small, several numbers were "skipped," also that he poorly composed, miserably gotten up and al- never held a sale before 1878, and could not together worthless catalogue of some obscure produce half the number claimed to have sale will bring \$1-and more. This is not been issued, but the fact of their existence on account of the value of the latter, but sim- cannot for a moment be doubted, even if no ply because A, B. and C, who want to com- one has ever seen a copy, when vouched for plete their series of catalogues are all bidders by so high an authority as Mr. Scott himself. for the worthless one they lack, while the Mr. Ed. Cogan, in his long and honorable tion, and hence not wanted Shrewd buyers number of sales, all unnumbered, a fact now

been able to form collections at nominal Collectors have no doubt noticed the recent prices, of valuable and useful priced catalogues more valuable one is already in their collec- connection with the coin trade held a large have availed themselves of this, and have regretted by collectors, because his cataissued in the United States, nor does Mr. States, up to that time. The edition was un-Hazeltine, who in the absolute number of fortunately so small that it very soon became sales held is probably ahead of all other compilers of coin catalogues in the United States. Mr. Strobridge did not number his catalogues, nor did Mason & Co., who some years ago held a considerable number of important and would be of great practical use to those sales. Mr. S. K. Harzfeld in the short time who make the collection of coin catalogues a during which he was actively engaged in the coin business has held sixteen sales as fol lows:

- 1 1877. October 25 and 26; New York.
- 2 1878. March 13, 14, and 15; New York.
- December 7; New York. 3 1878.
- March 14; Now York. 4 1879.
- 5 1879. June 5, and 6; New York.
- 6 1879. September 11, and 12; New York.
- December 10; New York. 7 1879.
- December 30; Philadelphia. 8 1879
- 9 1880. February 17; Philadelphia.
- 10 1880. March 9; Philadelphia.
- April 9; New York. 11 1880.
- June 30: New York. 12 1880
- 13 1880. September 10; New York.
- 14 1880 October 29; New York.
- November 26, and 27; New York. 15 1880
- 16 1881. January 24, and 25; New York.

Our own sales were all held in New York as follows:

- 1 1878. Ser tember 6.
- 2 1879. January 3.
- 3 1879. June 13, and 14.
- 4 1879. June 27.
- September 26. 5 1879.
- November 7. 6 1879.
- February 27, and 28. 7 1880.
- April 3 8 1880.
- 9 1880 June 5.
- Јиве 28, and 29. 10 1880.
- September 17. 11 1880.
- September 28. 12 1880.
- March 23, and 24. 13 1881.
- May 27. 14 1881.
- September 9. 15 1881.
- 16 1881. October 21, and 22.
- 17 1881. December 9.
- 18 1881. December 27.

Some two years ago there was published by Attinelli "Numisgrapics" an interesting work, giving considerable original informa- be obtained through us.

logues are among the most valuable as yet tion about coin sales held in the United exhausted. A second edition, enlarged and brought up to January 1st, 1882, would undoubtedly be received with pleasure by collectors of numismatic literature in general specialty.

COIN SALES.

We chronicle a small number of sales during the last two months.

November 21. Coins, autographs, war envelopes, etc., 587 lots. Catalogue by Geo. W. Massamore. Sold by Wm. Seemuller, 11 Charles St., Balto., Md. An interesting and excessively rare Confederate States token of which the following is a correct description sold at \$12.

Head of Beauregard to left; under the neck C. R. Near the border G. T. BEAUREGARD, BRG. GEN. C. S. A. Rev. Within two branches of laurel, crossed and tied at the bottom, MANASSAS | 21 | July | 1861. Border dotted, edge milled. Size of a dime.

The most interesting pieces in this sale, besides the above were, a 1798 dollar, 15 stars, small eagle rev.; 1797 half dollar, and set of 12, 6, and 3 pence, Chalmer's Annapolis currency.

November 28, 29, 30. The important sale of Hazeltine's Types and varieties of U.S. dollars, half, and quarter dollars, took place at Bangs & Co., on those days.

The 1806 lots, besides Mr. Hazeltine's collection of U, S. silver embraced U, S and Foreign gold; a fine collection of Hard Times tokens; rare pattern pieces; U. S. Cents and Half cents, etc. etc. For prices realized we refer our readers to the printed price lists published by Mr. H. and copies of which can

December 8. American and Foreign silver odds and ends, etc. 585 lots. Catalogue by and copper coins and tokens, double and Scott & Co, New York, It is claimed that triple erowns, Luther coins and medals, etc., etc. 653 lots. Catalogue by Ed. Frossard, (17th sale.) Sold by Bangs & Co., N. Y. On account of the very superior condition of the coins offered, nearly everything sold at chronisms. The sale was poor, poorly atexcellent figures. We quote the following, Half dollar, 1815, fine, 6, 15; Diekeson's work, 10.00; Frederic I. of Sweden, copper plate money for 2 dalers, 11.35; Holland, 1653, double ducat, 7.13; Malta, 1762, ten scudi, gold, 7.40; Denmark, 1657, guinea, 11 25; Berne, 1771, double ducat, 9 25; Early English gold stater, 7.00; Henry VI., Rose noble, 13.50; double crown of Leopold of Austria, 1626, 7.75; Leopold I., 1675, double crown, 8.00; Maximilian, 1614, double crown, as grand master of Teutonic order, 7 10; Brunswick, 1657, quadruple crown. 21:15; same, 1655, one and a half crown, 1050; Saxony, 1628, triple crown 1250; Sweden, doube cents of scarce dates in good to fine condition crown of John III., 7 75; Russia, Astronomi- were offered at this sale. We note, 1793 wreath, cal observatory silver medal weighing 5 1 2 6 00, 8,00, 5,60 and 5,30; 1799 over previous oz., 15.00; crown of ten livres, struck for Colonies 1810 by Bonaparte, 5.13; crown of date, fair, 9.10; 1804, 9.00, 760 and 7.60; Alexander Farnese, 1592, 6.75; silver medal of Calvin, Farel, Viret, and De Beze, the four Genevese reformers, size 38, 1000; Chain from N. Y. coin sales, but sold in Lancaster cent, 1793, uncirculated, 39 50; wreath cent, very fine, 25.00; another wreath cent, a combination hitherto unknown (Monog. ob. 8 good judgment displayed in his purchases. combined with rev. of No 4) in uncirculated condition, proof surface, 136.00; 1795 half cent, 700; 1795 cent, thick pl., lettered edge, 15.10; 1796 half cent, very fine, 75.50. 1797 cents, one 13.50, the other 8.00; 1800 dime, extremely fine, proof surface, 27.50; 1800 cent struck over previous date, 8.10; 1806 cent, very fine. 10.05; 1807 cent, perfect die and date, 16.50; 1821 cent, extremely fine, proof surface, 19.00; 1838, '40, '41, '42, '43, cents, proofs, averaged 11.00 each; 1841 half cent, original, 16.00; etc., etc. This was one of the best attended and most successful sales we have ever had, the total amount footing up \$1,538.23.

American and Foreign Coins, Siege Pieces, Aggregate of sale \$603.92.

this catalogue was compiled by Mr. Scott himself. If so, it will add little to his fame as a numismatist. Such errors as locating Louis Philip as the successor of Napoleon Bonaparte, etc., etc., are inexeusable anatended and showed a poor result.

Dec. 12 and 13. Catalogue of the collection of Mr. Louis Grauer, of Baltimore. U. S. dollars, half and quarter dollars, dimes, half dimes, proof sets, foreign coins, rare Massachusetts pine tree notes, etc. 1352 lots. Catalogue by John W. Haseltine. Sold at Bangs & Co. Mr. Haseltine issues printed price lists of all his sales, and their price is so low as to be within the reach of all. The fine 1802 dime (424) sold at 22.50.

December 22. Collection of U. S. Cents, half cents, U. S. silver coins, medals, Continental and Colonial notes, etc., etc. 936 lots. Catalogue by Chas. Steigerwalt. Sold by him at Lancaster, Pa. Quite a number of date, and a fine cent 51.00; another, perfect half cent, 1797, lettered edge, rare, but poor, 1.80, etc Many of the coins offered came at a sufficient advance above cost to reward Mr. Steigerwalt for his enterprise and the

December 27. American and Foreign Coins. Bronze proof medals of Napoleon Bonaparte; Medieval coins, numismatic works, etc. 704 lots. Catalogued by Ed. Frossard. Sold by Bangs & Co., N. Y. A fine collection of U.S. half dollars, lacking the rare dates, soid at very tow prices; the Napoleo. nic medals, 79 in number, and Numismatie works were cagerly sought, and realized a good price. We note "Le Numismate," a periodical bulletin issued by H. Hoffman, Paris, 1862, '65, complete, 1075; Ed. Hawkin's "The Silver Coins of England, London, 1876, 4.00; and William Blades, "A list of Medals, Jetons, Tokens, in connection with Dec. 19. The Hawaiian Collection (?), the art of printing," London, 1869, 10.25.